

CHATTANOOGA NEWS

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PRESIDENT TO SENATOR SHIELDS

My dear Senator:—Thank you very sincerely for your frank letter of yesterday about suffrage amendment. I realize the weight of the arguments that have controlled your attitude in this matter, and I would not have written as I did if I had not thought that the passage of the amendment at this time was an essential psychological element in the conduct of the war for democracy. I am led by a single sentence in your letter, therefore, to write that I do earnestly believe that our action upon this amendment will have an important and immediate influence upon the whole atmosphere and morale of the nations engaged in the war, and every day I am coming to see how supremely important that side of the whole thing is. We can win if we have the will to win.

Cordially and sincerely yours,
WOODROW WILSON.

It is not easy for Ben Johnson to get the world series habit out of his system.

What do you think of a country that the Turk will no longer associate with?

It has even been found necessary to seek "new defensive" positions for the super-guns.

Huns will make stand—Headline. They better consider the matter carefully first.

"Mobilize the politicians," advises a headline. Wouldn't internment at hard labor be better?

In consecutive paragraphs, the New York World discusses war prophets and war profits.

Senator William Alden Smith has decided that the Michigan senatorship is a bunch of sour grapes.

Did you believe Germans could drive Americans out of a position and hold it against them? We didn't.

That congressional party, now in France, is quite used to bombardment. But it is different over there.

We believe it would help some if the name of Hog Island was changed to something less suggestive.

If the skip-stop plan will really save 1,500 tons of coal annually there will probably be little objection to it.

It can hardly be expected that "a necessary correction of the German white book" will be made at Berlin.

Secretary Daniels thinks the young men can best serve the country by staying in school and completing their studies.

The French think Americans are too brave. The Germans are also suspected of feeling the same way about it.

What invests Dr. Morgan's new sugar ration orders with such peculiar interest is the fact that he wants the names of those who will not comply.

Pershing doesn't think the De Havilland a satisfactory pattern of airplane, but the all-wise senate committee never discovered anything wrong with it.

Report now has it that Kerenky has arrived in this country incognito—which seems to be his favorite method of arriving. Wonder if he means to stay that way?

Germany's money is said to be decreasing in value. But there are plenty of printing presses which may be depended upon to increase the quantity accordingly.

Former Premier Michaelis warns Germany that indemnities cannot make up for lack of shipping. No; not such indemnities as Germany will have coming to her.

You have a long time in which to make up your mind on how you will vote, but only a few minutes in which to do the actual voting. And a mistake is hard to recall.

Press notices of Alfred E. Smith, who was endorsed for the democratic nomination for governor of New York the other day, make it seem as if he had been selected anybody else.

Luxburg finally reached Germany, but was immediately sunk without trace by the Kaiser. He was denied an audience with his royal highness. He ought to have sunk that fatal correspondence without trace.

IS CONNER A "SUPER-MAN"?

Ex-Sheriff Sam A. Conner is a very nice, agreeable, likeable sort of a man, and we are for him for re-election as president of the District Fair association, a position into which he fits excellently, and we hope he will get more government contracts, too, for we have no doubt he delivers the goods. But in his aspirations to be county judge we are inclined to believe that the ex-sheriff has through the intensity of his desires worked his mind into some sort of obsession as to what he might be able to do.

We didn't know we had a "super-man" of the "kultur" type here, but on reading the ex-sheriff's statement as to what he proposes to do if elected we are convinced that if there is any good ground to hope that such wonderful things might be accomplished under the republican candidate we certainly must have a man of that type among us.

He is going to build many roads, not one. Every community is going to have its road. The workhouse guards are to become pinks of perfection and angels in disguise and not beat up any poor prisoner. Every district "shall" have nine months of school and it will not be necessary for the women to cry on his shoulder to secure that extra month, and more wonderful this is going to be done without increase of taxes.

Salaries that are extravagant are to be reduced. Which these are dependent sayeth not. Who shall ask him such a delicate question?

All the old districts shall have their member of the county court again. We shall have that large and bulky body with all its log rolling and swamping of votes as in the past, and rows of justice officers for nightwalking purposes in town. The county squire shall fix the salary of the superintendent of roads. Surely that official will have to give every one a road.

The would-be county judge will not pay any commission on the sale of bonds. No doubt he will have his fifty members of the county court pass a resolution requiring the banks to take them without charging a cent. It will be dead easy. There shall be no overdraft or deficit. The millennium will arrive in old Hamilton.

At last our ambitious candidate has told us the "constructive" things he will do. We are enlightened.

Surely a man who can do all this ought to devote his talents to the county government of Hamilton county. If not elected, as it doesn't seem he will be, we ought to pay him a salary on the side as an "efficiency expert."

M'MILLIN ON JACKSON.

One characteristic of Hon. Benton McMillin's old-time political speeches was that none of them was ever considered complete which did not embody some sort of reference to King's mountain and New Orleans. Sometimes he even took occasion to swat the Roman proconsuls. He seemed to gather inspiration from such exercises. Well, he hasn't entirely recovered yet. The ex-governor was in Washington the other day on his return from a trip to his old home, and en route to his post of duty as minister to Peru. While at the capital, Minister McMillin gave out the following interview which has the old familiar ring:

"The largest powder plant in the world is nearing completion in Nashville. It is within sight of the Hermitage, the home of Andrew Jackson, and I could not help thinking as I passed the tomb of the hero of New Orleans that the powder now being made by Americans close to his grave must absorb some of the fighting spirit of that wonderful fighting president. This powder plant was started early in the year and is now approaching completion, and powder is already being made there."

"Our people in Tennessee have the right war spirit. They are thoroughly impressed with the undertaking in which we are engaged and are resolved to lend every energy to the winning of the war, whether it takes one year or five. Of course, they do not expect the war will last five years, but they are going ahead with every preparation so that they may be able to meet any emergency."

"In common with the citizens of all other states, Tennesseans are strongly supporting the president, who has displayed transcendent ability and genius in his handling of the war. He has been the spokesman of all the allied nations, and that our allies over there have accepted so enthusiastically the principles and purposes he has laid down is one of the most remarkable tributes ever paid to an American president."

"We hadn't previously thought of it in that light, but perhaps Gov. McMillin has furnished us the cue for the selection of Hadley's Bend as the site for the great powder plant. Not only was it hoped that workers in sight of his tomb might be inspired by the history of the heroic character that once resided at the Hermitage, but that the product of their output might, in some way, absorb some of his punch. Come to think there is a peculiar appropriateness in the selection of 'Old Hickory,' instead of Hadley's Bend, as the permanent name of the community."

Gov. McMillin is right in another respect. Tennesseans are manfully doing their duty toward the war. They, of course, hope it may last much less than five years, but they are not shirking their responsibilities. The past history of the country is emblazoned with the achievements of the sons of Tennessee and, we predict, that the future history will tell the same story. Tennesseans know their duty, and do it."

Whatever Schwab says can be done, the country generally will believe can be. But launching 10,000,000 tons of steel shipping in a year is a good big contract.

Chancellor Roberts is a man of very conspicuous ability, and his promise to take up the question of tax reform and secure legislation to lodge somewhere the power of equalization will, if he is elected, no doubt result in some important progress along that line.

WHAT CAUSED IT?

We have been told that nature abhors a vacuum, but we now confront the theory that it is equally displeased with overcrowding. A prominent physician recently accepted, on behalf of his profession, responsibility for the world-war, explaining that the medical profession had so far succeeded in banishing disease that nature, in some mysterious manner, had precipitated the terrible conflict in order to thin out the people, thus counteracting one of its other and opposite processes which was gaining too rapidly on the death rate.

We have never before seen it stated this way, though the goods-box philosophy that wars are a providential means of reducing the population is more or less familiar. The opinion quoted above fits in very well with this folk lore conception. It merely identifies nature with providence, which is not such a great stretch of the imagination. But the theory is not very impressive. It lends itself readily to popular fancy, but makes a poor showing in an intelligent scientific investigation.

However, the habit of blaming our misfortunes and misdeeds upon providence is not a new one. Wars which could not be defended upon ethical grounds have frequently been accounted for in that way. The Kaiser, even, would probably admit that the present war is nature's effort to reduce the population—other than German—to proper proportions. If it wasn't Russia, France or England which caused it, it must have been nature!

NEWS PRINT PAPER.

News print paper manufacturers continue to chafe against the bit because they have not yet got theirs from the publishers, and, incidentally, the people of the country. They want the prices pushed up higher, and they don't think the federal trade commission has any call to interfere. They probably reason that everybody's doing it, and why not they as well as others?

Inadequacy of paper production has already operated to bring about considerable reductions in the sizes of many papers and has caused the suspension of many others altogether. The stringency existing has again brought to mind reports some time ago in circulation that experiments were being made with sawdust as a material for the manufacture of paper. The tests are said to have demonstrated the feasibility of utilizing sawdust in this way.

In fact, it is stated that sawdust paper is actually being manufactured in England in commercial quantities and that the newspapers over there are using it readily. The London Times, in a recent edition, which was printed on such paper, commented editorially on the enterprise, declaring that the perfection of the process of manufacturing paper from sawdust, a by-product, would greatly relieve the tension of the demand upon wood pulp.

The same situation, or largely the same, exists in this country as in England. If it can be shown that sawdust paper can be produced on a scale of commercial importance, it ought to afford considerable relief to the strain of the demand for wood pulp timber, which is all the time becoming more inaccessible. There are large quantities of available sawdust over the country, and the daily output at the mills is very considerable.

As intimated above, supplies of timber suitable for wood pulp are all the time getting scarcer and farther from the mills, though, of course, they are nothing like exhausted. It would be a great stroke, however, if some ingenious inventor could devise a process for the production of paper from something which can be grown from the earth every year, like grass, straw, corn or cotton stalks. Perhaps this may yet be done.

"I consider public office a public trust and not a private snap, and I refer the public to my record in this regard,"—Ex-Sheriff Conner. He held the office of sheriff for two terms and was a popular official. But at that time the sentiment was not in favor of law enforcement, and we don't believe the friends of the sheriff would contend that he went out of his way to create such a sentiment by the conduct of his office. This must not be cherished against him, possibly, but it merely indicates that he was a good deal like the official whose office he is trying to take away. The county judge has been under strong pressure to spend money for public improvements. He has acted in that regard in accordance with public sentiment. Certainly his offense, if any, is not to be compared with that of the sheriff, who yielded to sentiment which was not at all in the same class, so far as praiseworthiness is concerned.

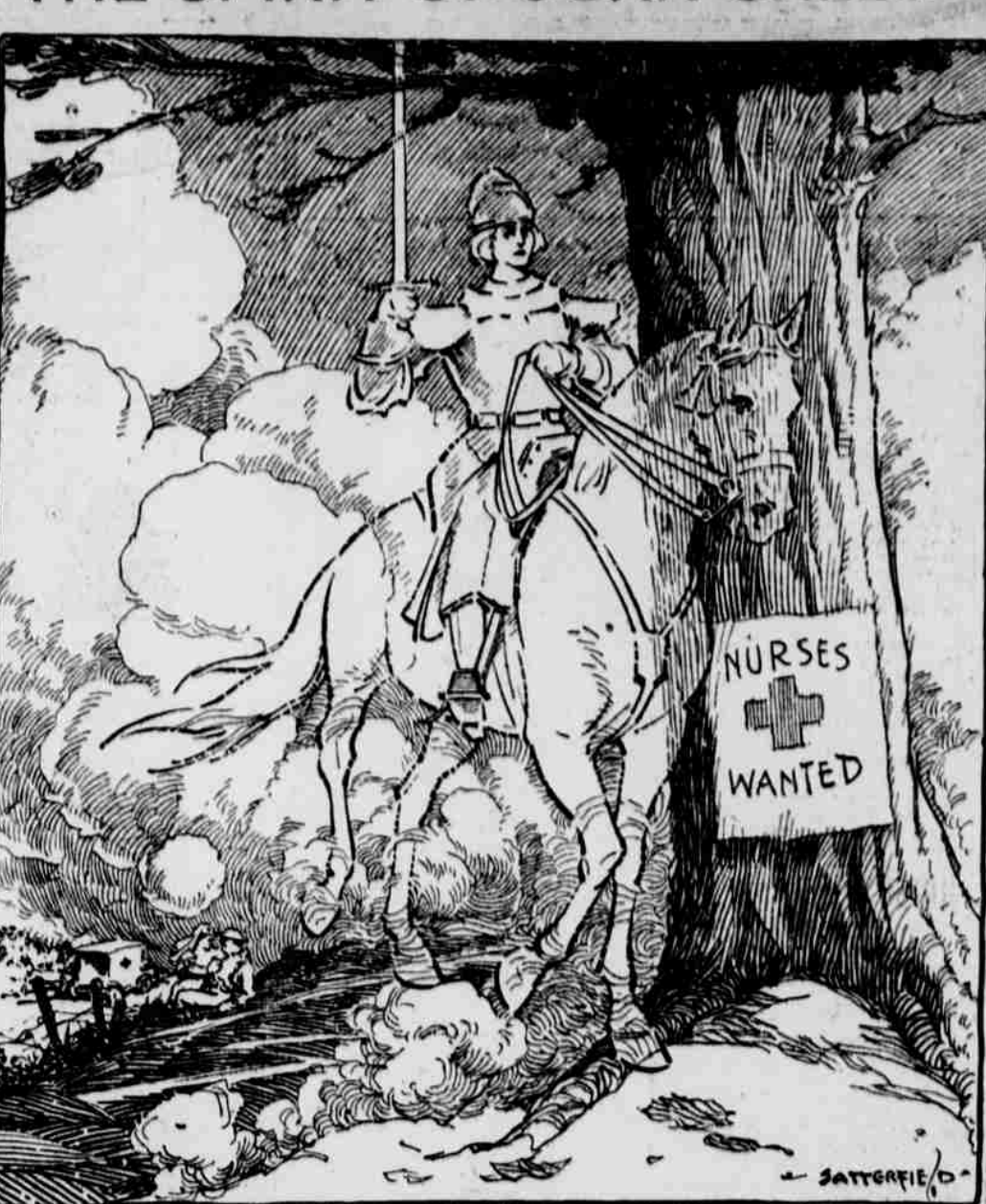
We stop the press to say that the latest intelligence from Washington was that the president had not yet, despite his pleadings, secured from the Tennessee senator a promise to vote on the suffrage bill so as to help win the war.

We have been looking for an announcement from Berlin this anniversary week, of what the coming year might expect from "the good German sword," but it has thus far escaped our notice.

Senators Shields and Underwood are still suspected of having a conviction that democracy is something intended for men folks—that they agree with that Massachusetts court that women are not people.

Last Sunday was observed as Serbia's day, because of the fact that it was the fourth anniversary of the day upon which Austria began her war on that suffering country. Serbia's day, however, has not yet arrived, but it is thought to be approaching.

THE SPIRIT OF JOAN CALLS



GORKY GONE.

Marie Bashkirtseff, Prince Kropotkin, Count Tolstoy, George Kennan and Maxim Gorky—these are names which, though they may be misspelled, represent the American knowledge of Russian literature up to the time of the war. Gorky has gone to join Tolstoy and other earnest men whose teachings, no doubt, had much to do with the bringing about of the revolution. And the Washington Times says:

"Be careful to whom you preach revolution. It was one thing for Voltaire, Rousseau and the others to tell the French to get rid of their kings—or for Washington and Jefferson to advise this country to kick out King George."

"It is another thing to tell 100,000,000 Russians, of whom 90,000,000 cannot read or write, that they are ready and able to govern themselves, and that each of them—even though he cannot read and never has thought—is the equal in all ways of any other."

Gorky came to this country and was warmly received by Mark Twain and others, until they found that a Russian church had not sanctioned his divorce and remarriage. We hadn't balked at Mrs. Langtry or Mademoiselle de Merve, but not Gorky. Of late we have heard much of him as the editor of a daily paper in Petrograd, which, while socialistic, yet sought to restrain the revolutionists.

Gorky had little sympathy with the bolsheviks. He told the socialists that their doctrine meant equality of opportunity and not an equal division of property.

It is too bad that this man of genius has not been spared, for his country now needs wise counsel.

WHY THIS ATTITUDE?

According to the Nashville Banner, Senator Shields is quoted as follows regarding the correspondence between himself and the president on the subject of suffrage:

"President Wilson and I have had some correspondence on the subject of the proposed amendment, but the publications referred to are incorrect and do the president and myself injustice. There seems to be an irresistible impulse or determination of some who are politically hostile to me to misrepresent me in all my relations with President Wilson and his administration."

"I have nothing to conceal from the public relative to these relations; and in order that the fact may be known, with the president's permission I will give this correspondence to the public. The views of the president and myself are clearly stated, and no comment is necessary. The resolution will probably reach a vote in September, and in the meantime, as I state in my letter, I will give the views of the president the most thoughtful and serious consideration, as I always do his opinions upon important questions, especially those bearing upon the prosecution of the war to a victorious conclusion."

We are frank in saying that if Senator Shields had been of views more like President Wilson on this and some other questions it is unlikely he would have had any opposition at all in this campaign. This holding back on his part has been the main ground for such opposition as has been exhibited to him. It seems a decided characteristic in his disposition. As we have said, there is much in the senator's record to commend, but those who are seeking forward-looking men find disappointment in his attitude on some questions. Now why has he not made plain his attitude on suffrage? He has "it under consideration." In other words those who are suffragists are given reason to hope, while he keeps in line his reactionary followers by refusing to come out, in response to the president's request. This is far from the sort of course which arouses Tennesseans to enthusiasm.

Whenever you feel an inclination to lynch something or somebody, just think of what Germany did to Belgium and be ashamed of yourself.

Iceland is said to have imbibed a dose of the self-determination propaganda and wants its independence from Denmark. We should think Denmark would embrace the opportunity.

Perhaps we have never felt as much interest in the councils of defense as was met, but now that they purpose to put everybody to singing, we feel measurably vindicated.

Siam is reported as having 500 accomplished aviators ready for service in Europe. Cuba is to send a detachment of soldiers. Presently we shall hear that Greece means to do something.

Report has it that Mackensen, who has been out of sight nearly a year, will again get in the limelight. A last trump, so to speak.

SHRAPNEL

Prince Henry, consort of Queen Wilhelmina of Holland, is spending the summer mountaineering in Switzerland.

A thousand-mile railroad between Singapore and Bangkok has been opened to traffic.

Stolen flour sacks in Budapest were bought up at \$10 each by dressmakers to make gowns.

The roll of cloth from which King George of England recently selected a standardized suit was placed on exhibition at a show of standardized clothes in London.

Up to May 25, Australian cotton growers had delivered to the department of agriculture nearly five times the amount of cotton which was delivered during the corresponding period last year.

Germany's airplane crosses, formerly made in the shape of the iron cross, now are made in the shape of the Red Cross, but are black.

German army rations, which have been slim enough heretofore, have been cut again, this time reducing the supply of fat foods.

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Candidate For

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Election Thursday, Aug. 1

Members of Organized Labor will undoubtedly be interested in the following resolution, adopted at a recent meeting of Sheet Metal Workers' Union:

"Whereas, Ben Bush is a candidate to succeed himself as Justice of the Peace from the Third Civil District; and

"Whereas, Mr. Bush has been an employer of sheet metal workers for a period of eighteen years in the city of Chattanooga and has always been fair to our members. Therefore, be it

"Resolved, That we give our official indorsement to the candidacy of Mr. Bush and urge all friends of organized labor to give him their support.

"ALVIN J. PFITZER, President.
"G. C. TITTLE, Secretary."

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